

## RECOGNITION OF LOAD-LINE CERTIFICATES

*Exchange of notes at Berlin September 11 and December 16, 1931*  
*Entered into force December 16, 1931*  
*Terminated December 6, 1933*<sup>1</sup>

47 Stat. 2695; Executive Agreement Series 31

*The American Ambassador to the Minister of Foreign Affairs*

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
*Berlin, September 11, 1931*

No. 585

### EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to refer to previous correspondence and in particular to Note Verbale 5 845/31, of March 4, 1931, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wherein the statement was made that the Government of Germany was prepared to accept the American "Regulations for the Establishment of Load Lines for Merchant Vessels of 250 Gross Tons or over when engaged in a Foreign Voyage by Sea" as equally effective with the German regulations similar thereto and to conclude a reciprocal agreement as well as a temporary reciprocal agreement governing the acceptance by each Government of the regulations of the other.

I now beg to inform Your Excellency that the competent executive authorities of the Government of the United States have examined the German rules and tables of freeboard, which were submitted with the Note under reference, and have found them to be as effective as the United States load line regulations. I am further directed to state, in regard to the reciprocal agreement concerning the acceptance of the mutual regulations, which agreement will remain effective pending the coming into force of the international load line convention in the two countries, that my Government understands that the Governments of the United States and Germany will each recognize as equivalent the load line marks and the certificates of such marking of merchant vessels of the other: provided, that the load line marks are in accordance with the load line certificates; that the hull or superstructure of the vessel certificated has not been so materially altered since the issuance

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<sup>1</sup> Upon entry into force for the United States and Germany of convention of July 5, 1930 (TS 858, *ante*, vol. 2, p. 1076).

of the certificate as to affect the calculations on which the load line was based, and that alterations have not been made so that the—

- (1) Protection of openings,
- (2) Guard Rails,
- (3) Freeing Ports,
- (4) Means of Access to Crews Quarters

have made the vessel manifestly unfit to proceed to sea without danger to human life.

I have the further honor to inform Your Excellency that it will be understood by the Government of the United States that, upon receipt of a note from Your Excellency expressing the German Government's concurrence in my Government's understanding, as above set forth, the agreement will become effective.

I avail myself of this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

FREDERIC M. SACKETT

HIS EXCELLENCY,  
DR. JULIUS CURTIUS,  
*Minister for Foreign Affairs,*  
*Berlin.*

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*The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the American Ambassador*

[TRANSLATION]

FOREIGN OFFICE  
S 5270

BERLIN, *December 16, 1931*

MR. AMBASSADOR:

In reply to your communication No. 585 of September 11, 1931, relative to the conclusion of an agreement between Germany and the United States of America concerning mutual recognition of the load-line regulations of the other country, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency as follows:

Since the German "Regulations of the See-Berufsgenossenschaft (Maritime Cooperative Association) Governing the Freeboard of Steamers and Sailing Vessels on Long Voyages and Atlantic Voyages as well as Extended Coasting Navigation" and the corresponding "Regulations for the Establishment of Load Lines for Merchant Vessels of 250 Gross Tons or Over When Engaged in a Foreign Voyage by Sea" of the United States of America, have been examined by both parties and recognized as equivalent, the Government of the Reich agrees to the conclusion of a reciprocal agreement governing the acceptance by each Government of the freeboard regulations of the other,

the load-line marks, and the certificates of such marking of merchant vessels, this agreement to be effective beginning to-day until the international convention governing the freeboard of merchant vessels becomes effective in both countries: provided, that the load-line marks are in accordance with the load-line certificates; that the hull or superstructure of the vessel certificated has not been so materially altered since the issuance of the certificate as to affect the calculations on which the load line was based; and that alterations have not been made so that the

- (1) Protection of openings
- (2) Guard rails
- (3) Freeing ports
- (4) Means of access to crew's quarters

have made the vessel manifestly unfit to put to sea without danger to human life.

I take this opportunity to express to you, Mr. Ambassador, my highest consideration.

BÜLOW

His Excellency,

The Ambassador of the United States of America,  
Mr. FREDERIC M. SACKETT